Glossary of Grammar Terms

Term	Definition
Active voice	Sentences were the subject in the sentence does the action of the verb.
	The boy kicked the ball.
Adjective	A word that describes a noun.
	big house cold morning delicious ice-cream
Adverb	A word which describes a verb, an adjective or other adverbs.
	Adverbs can describe manner, time or place. (See below for examples)
Adverb of manner	Tells us how the verb is being done.
	The man limped painfully.
Adverb of time	Tells us when the verb was done.
	Later, the man limped painfully.
Adverb of place	Tells us where the verb was done.
	Just before lunch, the man limped painfully along.
Adverbial	A group of words (without a verb) which act as an adverb.
(also known as)	During the night, the wind picked up speed.
Adverbial phrase	The rocket took off at the speed of lightning.
Antonyms	Words that mean the opposite. big and small
Clause	Part of a sentence that contains a subject and a verb.
	The children played. I like potatoes.
	Clauses may be main (makes sense on its own) or subordinate (relies on another clause).
Comparative	An adjective which makes a comparison.
adjective	She is faster than him. They are quieter than the other children.
Conjunction	A word that joins two clauses or sentences.
	Conjunctions may be co-ordinating or subordinating.
Co-ordinating conjunctions	Words that link two main clauses, phrases or words with equal importance. (FANBOYS- For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
	The boy was scared but the girl was excited.
	The children can play in the classroom or in the dining room.
Determiner	A word that tells you if a noun is general or specific, e.g. the, a, an, his,
	The garden had a gate and an apple tree in it.
	Her bag is not in the box.
Main clause	A clause which makes sense on its own and has only one happening.
	The man walked down the road.
	I went out even though it was raining.
	Although I like cheese, I don't like pizza.

Term	Definition
Modal verb	A verb which shows how likely something is to happen.
	e.g. should, could, might, will We will go shopping.
Noun	A word that names something.
	scissors, tables, sky (common nouns)
	Paul, Roebuck Primary School, France (proper nouns)
	herd, swarm, army, shoal, pack (collective nouns)
	happiness, fear, dedication, responsibility (abstract nouns)
Object	The part of the sentence that the action of the verb is being done to.
	The dog ate the bone. The girl brushed her hair.
Passive voice	Sentences where the subject has something done to it.
	The tin was opened by the man.
Phrase	Part of a sentence without a verb.
	the tall man from across the road (noun phrase)
	beyond the city wall (prepositional phrase built round the preposition)
	beautifully green (adjectival phrase – built round the adjective)
Possessive	A pronoun which shows who owns something.
pronoun	her bag the coat is mine their pens
Prefix	Letters than can be put in front of a word to change its meaning.
	unlock defuse irrelevant insignificant imperfect
Preposition	A word that tells you how things are related.
	in, above, before, later, during, before, in front of
Pronoun	Words that can be used to replace nouns. I, you he, it
Relative clause	A type of subordinate clause which tells you more about the noun.
	The shoes, that I bought, are not comfortable.
	She's the girl who likes onions.
Relative pronoun	A pronoun that introduces a relative clause. who, which, that
Subject	The person or thing doing the verb.
	The children persuaded the teacher. The boy kicked the ball.
Subordinate clause	A clause which doesn't make sense on its own.
	While you were out, I watched television.
Suffix	Letters that can be put after a word to change its meaning.
	play ful enjoy able hope less struggl ing happi ly
Superlative	An adjective which expresses the highest degree of something.
adjective	largest, most gentle, angriest, quietest, most intelligent
Synonyms	Words that mean the same. large, big, massive, colossal, enormous
Verb	A doing or being word. I run he went you are she was